

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR CONIO

REF: USNATO 0829

1. WE CAN ACCEPT JUNE 12-13 DATES FOR ANNUAL CONIO MEETING.

2. AS POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS, WE WOULD SUGGEST TWO:

-- A) CONSIDERATION OF CONIO RECOMMENDATION THAT
-- CICR DEVELOP AND COORDINATE PUBLIC ALLIED
-- GUIDELINES ON RESULTS OF CSCE; AND

-- B) CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUS OF PUBLIC OPINION
-- IN MEMBER COUNTRIES ABOUT INTERNATIONAL
-- ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY COOPERATION.

3. EXPLANATION OF SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS.

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-- WE PROPOSE ITEM A) AS A MEANS OF STIMULATING ALLIES

TO WORK ON WAYS TO PLACE CSCE IN PERSPECTIVE. THERE IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR PUBLIC EUPHORIA IN THE WAKE OF A CSCE AND, ESPECIALLY, IN ANTICIPATION OF A FULLY ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN BY THE USSR DESIGNED TO STIMULATE SUCH AN EUPHORIA. WE WOULD ALSO BE DISAPPOINTED IF THERE WERE A FAILURE BY THE

WESTERN PUBLIC TO APPRECIATE THOSE USEFUL THOUGH MODEST CONTRIBUTIONS TO DETENTE WHICH MAY RESULT FROM THE CSCE.

IN ORDER TO AVOID A DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON WESTERN DEFENSE EFFORTS, NATO'S PUBLIC POSTURE COULD REPEAT THE THEME THAT DEFENSE IS THE NECESSARY CONDITION PRECEDENT TO DETENTE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR CONIO TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDING THAT CICR DEVELOP AND COORDINATE THESE GENERAL GUIDELINES TO INSURE AN EFFECTIVE AND PRACTICAL EXPLANATION OF CSCE RESULTS TO PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC OPINION IN ALLIANCE MEMBER STATES.

-- WE PROPOSE ITEM (B) AS USEFUL MEANS GAGING PRESENT STATE PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HOLD OBVIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR FUTURE COURSE OF THE ALLIANCE AND THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY. WE SEE THIS AS AN ESPECIALLY USEFUL EXCHANGE IN THIS UNIQUE PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY AND CHANGE. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT JOINT MEETING WITH U.S. AND NATO INFORMATION

OFFICIALS LAST DECEMBER BEGAN WITH ASSESSMENT EUROPEAN PUBLIC ATTITUDES BY NATO INFORMATION DIRECTOR. WE FOUND THIS MOST USEFUL APPRAISAL WHICH STIMULATED FURTHER EXAMINATION SOME OF OUR PERCEPTIONS. SHOULD ITEM BE ACCEPTED, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE COPIES OF A RECENT NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY. WE WOULD HOPE OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES, IN POSITION TO DO SO, WOULD MAKE SIMILAR DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE FOR DISCUSSION THIS AGENDA ITEM.

4. SHOULD MISSION WISH COMMENT ON AGENDA PROPOSALS, ITS VIEWS WOULD BE WELCOME. KISSINGER
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